

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) the details of State Government's proposed plan to decongest the saturated Mumbai Port and the Central Government's response thereto;

(e) the recommendations of the Ministry's expert Committee on infrastructural development of ports particularly relating to Maharashtra Government's proposal; and

(f) the time by which the project is likely to be given environmental clearance?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A reference was made to the Ministry of Environment and Forests by M/s. Amma Lines Limited in May, 1996 and by P&O Ports in May, 1997 regarding the proposed Port at VadHAVAN in Maharashtra. However, no detailed proposal for environmental clearance as per the prescribed procedure has been submitted to the Ministry. The project proponents have been told to apply, through the State Government, to the Dahanu Taluka Environment Protection Authority. The State Government has also been advised that no preliminary action should be taken by way of construction or otherwise at the proposed site pending detailed examination of the proposal by the Dahanu Taluka Environment Protection Authority and the Ministry.

A number of representations have been received regarding the adverse impact of the Jetty at Dharmatar Creek on Amba Estuary also. These are being examined.

(d) No such proposal has been referred to this Ministry.

(e) and (f) Does not arise.

Ten Point Plan

863. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited has submitted a ten point plan to the Telecom Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps so far taken by the Telecom Commission in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Yes, Sir. MTNL has been the plan titled 'Vision 2000' for modernisation of the Telecom. Services in MTNL, Mumbai and Delhi.

(b) 'Vision 2000' has the following objectives.

(i) Upgradation of the external Plant.

(ii) Greater emphasis on subscriber satisfaction.

(iii) Easy availability of telephones. On demand. These steps are proposed to be achieved at a cost of Rs. 2000 crores.

(c) The document 'Vision 2000' has been approved by the Telecom Commission. MTNL has been asked to implement the plan.

Defence Expenditure

864. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:

SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to spend 5% of GDP on Defence as against 2.3% this year as expressed by GOC Western Command;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the main grounds adduced by the GOC for such increase in the defence expenditure?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV): (a) to (c) The Demands for Grants for the Ministry of Defence are voted by the Parliament based on the defence allocations made by the Ministry of Finance keeping in view the requirements and security concerns projected by the Ministry of Defence, overall availability of resources and demands from other sectors of economy. It is not possible to make future projections for defence allocation as security concerns and resource position vary from time to time.

[Translation]

Road From Delhi to Badrinath Dham

865. DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA:

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to declare the Delhi-Badrinath Dham road as National Highway and develop it;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the work is likely to start and the schedule of its completion?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G.VENKATARAMAN): (a) to (c) The proposal is at a very preliminary stage and it is too early to give details thereof.

[English]

Decongestion of Ports

866. SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA:

SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have announced a number of measures for decongesting ports and making them more customer-friendly;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any time bound programme has been prepared in this regard;

(d) if so, whether instructions to this effect had been conveyed to all the major ports;

(e) if so, whether all the major ports have been asked to produce results in three months;

(f) if so, the other guidelines issued to the port Chairman for making ports more consumer-oriented;

(g) if so, the steps undertaken by the Chairman of ports in this regard; and

(h) whether new ports are also proposed to be developed to remove decongestion and meet this future load, and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATARAMAN): (a) to (e) Yes Sir. A three months long campaign has been launched w.e.f. 1.9.1997 with an overall objective of decongesting Major Ports; improving productivity and to reduce the pre-berthing detention to less than 24 hours.

(f) and (g) Regular meetings with Port Users are being held at the Port to sort out the problems of early evacuation of cargo and for decongestion of ports in response to the instructions issued in this regard. Co-operation of labour is sought to achieve higher productivity.

(h) No, Sir.

Centrally Aided Schemes/Projects in Tamil Nadu

867. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the Centrally aided Schemes/Projects which are being launched in Tamil Nadu and the financial and physical progress achieved during the last year, Project-wise;

(b) the details of new projects submitted by the State Government for consideration and approval alongwith action taken by the Government on them, Project-wise; and

(c) the details of projects submitted by the State Government seeking financial assistance from the World Bank and other International Agencies?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) and (c) The details of the environmental and forestry projects launched in Tamil Nadu with the Central and foreign assistance during the last three years alongwith achievements made, both financial and physical, are given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) During 1997-98, proposals from the State have been recieved under the schemes of Non Timber Forest Produce including Medicinal Plants for Rs. 18 lakhs and under Seed Development Scheme for Rs.10 lakhs. While the former has been referred back to the State Government for being recast as per revised guidelines and cost norms of the scheme, the latter is under consideration of the Ministry. Another proposal under consideration is release of funds for the Management Action Plan for the Muthupet mangroves in the State. Two proposals have been received from Tamil Nadu Government for Conservation of Ooty and Kodiakanal Lakes under NLCP. However, the scheme is under consideration for Cabinet clearance.

Statement

| Sl. No. | Name of the Scheme | Broad Objective | Status | Achievement during the last three years 1994-95, 95-96 & 96-97 | |
|---------|---------------------------|---|---------|--|----------------------------|
| | | | | Financial | Physical |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 1. | Paryavaran Vahini Scheme | Create environmental awareness through active participation of public | Ongoing | — | Constituted in 7 districts |
| 2. | Conservation of Mangroves | Conservation and Management of Mangroves | Ongoing | 28.81 | 2 Mangroves covered |